



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 7, 2011

**Women's Economic Council Foundation (WECF) Academic Scholarships  
Now Available for Six Qualified Women**

***WECF Scholarship Awards include Non-Traditional Category;***

***Deadline to apply is September 30***

The WECF today announced its offer of six \$1,000 scholarships to Tennessee resident women and girls including a Non-Traditional category. This emphasizes qualifications beyond academic excellence, focusing on civic involvement, accomplishments in the workplace and career aspirations. There is no other scholarship program in Tennessee that so thoughtfully evaluates applicants' future potential.

There will be three Non-Traditional WECF Academic Scholarships— one for each Grand Division in Tennessee. Criteria will include 1) the applicant must have been out of high school or have received a GED at least five years ago, and 2) the applicant already must be a student or an applicant for admission to an undergraduate college degree program, 3) the applicant has to be a resident of Tennessee.

An additional three WECF Scholarship Awards are offered for women in the Traditional category - graduating senior high school girls. Again, in this category there is one Traditional recipient for each Grand Division of Tennessee, and only Tennessee residents qualify.

"The scholarships highlight the relevance of the WECF mission today and in the future," said Patricia Pierce, Chair of the WECF Scholarship Committee. "In particular, that means supporting women and girls dedicated to improving economic autonomy for themselves and all women in the state."

The six scholarship recipients will be announced at the eighth annual Economic Summit for Women, the WECF hallmark event, on October 24 at the Nashville Airport Marriott. This is the sixth year that the WECF has awarded scholarships including the Non-Traditional category. The program – which typically attracts hundreds of Tennessee women - is impressive, with esteemed keynotes including Jean Chatzky, best-selling author and Financial Editor for NBC's *Today Show*. She will talk about regaining control of your finances in this out-of-control world.

The scholarship application is available at [www.womenseconomicfoundation.org](http://www.womenseconomicfoundation.org), and the deadline for submission is September 30. Detailed criteria and instructions also are posted on that site.

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### **About the Economic Summit for Women**

The Economic Summit for Women is an annual event established to help Tennessee women become economically self-sufficient. It is presented by the Women's Economic Council Foundation and the Tennessee Economic Council on Women. The latter has the smallest budget of any state agency in Tennessee.

Since the event began in 2004, thousands of women have gathered at the Summit to hear expert speakers discuss women's economic issues such as medical costs, financial planning, literacy, business ownership and development, and political participation. Speakers have included Patricia Schroeder, Marie Wilson, Sandra Day O'Connor, Robin Gerber, Helen Thomas, Gail Evans, Governor Phil Bredesen, Dee Dee Myers and Gloria Steinem.

The 2011 event will take place on October 24, with featured speakers including Jean Chatzky of NBC's Today Show, Kathy Hannan, National Managing Partner of Diversity and Corporate Responsibility, KPMG, and The Honorable Beth Harwell, Speaker, Tennessee House of Representatives.

For further information visit [www.tnwomensummit.org](http://www.tnwomensummit.org)

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